



P.O. BOX 428
ACOMA, NEW MEXICO 87034

PUEBLO OF ACOMA
HAAK'U LEARNING CENTER

TELEPHONE (505) 552-6959
FAX (505) 552-9455

February 24, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how the Pueblo of Acoma Child Care program plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the childcare needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies:

- Provide childcare assistance to qualified families residing within the Pueblo of Acoma service area.
- Provide five (5) mini grants to essential and front-line workers. (Health care, emergency responders, sanitation workers, food services workers and other workers deemed essential. The mini grants will be used at a Center based location of the family's choosing.
 - The grant will only be issued when no relative is available on the Pueblo to provide childcare.
 - Each grant will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to adhere to the Pueblo's stay at home order.

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices:

- Provide assistance for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation (including cleaning supplies or deep cleaning services), other supplies, equipment (such as personal protective equipment or PPE) that reflect the guidance of the New Mexico Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Assist with updated air filtration systems, purchase cleaning devices targeted to kill COVID-19 along with other childhood illnesses.
- Due to the CDC guidance on “double masking” the program will purchase mask making supplies which will include a mask pattern, cotton fabric, elastic and basic sewing supplies. This will be a project for community member who is interested in community service and it will be a project for childcare providers and children.

3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers:

- Provide virtual professional development opportunities, staffing, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs.
- The program will increase payment rate for childcare provider to assist provider in meeting increased operating expenses.
 - The increase will remain in effect until the Pueblo’s stay-at-home order is lifted or if funding is depleted.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic:

- The program has not determined how to use funds under this category. We are waiting on further guidance.

5. Other

- Perform a deep clean/sanitizing of the childcare providers’ home affected by COVID-19, as needed.
- Purchase nutritious snack/food items for children.
- Purchase appropriate formula and diapers for infant.
- Provide School Age Grants within public schools to expand learning opportunities for students, including before-school, after-school, and summer learning. Through partnerships between local schools and community organizations, the grant will allow the programs to offer enrichment activities that complement school-day learning and help students meet state and local achievement standards.

The Pueblo of Acoma Child Care program will amend our CCDF plan because of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

KatieAnn Juanico, Director

New Mexico, Pueblo of Acoma

cc: Gwendolyn Jones, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 6

Joey Bishop, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 6

Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10